

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 are pending in the present application. Claims 27-33 have been allowed. Claims 2-4, 6-11, 15, 17-21, and 25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The remaining claims have been rejected based on the prior art.

Claim 25 has been amended to delete "inverting", since there is no antecedent basis for the word "inverting" in parent claim 23. This amendment to claim 25 was not made in response to any rejection.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1, 23, 24, and 26 have been rejected under § 102(b) as being anticipated by Valfre, US Patent 3,684,975 (Valfre).

Independent claim 1 recites an input circuit for an RF power amplifier including "an input network having a transformer with a primary side and a secondary side, wherein an RF input signal is coupled to the primary side, " a limiting amplifier having an input coupled to the secondary side of the transformer and an output for providing an input to the RF power amplifier," and "a DC feedback loop coupled to the limiting amplifier."

The Examiner argues that FIGS. 4 and 7 of Valfre disclose the circuit recited in claim 1. The examiner argues that diodes Rd1 and Rd2 of FIG. 4 can be read as a limiting amplifier, and cites Col. 3, lines 54-62 in Valfre. Applicants assert that Valfre does not teach or suggest the input circuit recited in claim 1. As mentioned above, claim 1 recites a limiting amplifier having an input coupled to the secondary side of the transformer and an output for providing an input to the RF power amplifier. The diodes Rd1 and Rd2 do not read as a limiting amplifier as argued by the Examiner. For the sake of argument, even if the diodes Rd1 and Rd2 could be considered to be a "limiting amplifier", the input and output of the "limited amplifier" are shorted together (the

input coupled to the secondary side of the transformer T1 and the input to the amplifier A), thus not functioning as an amplifier. As described in Valfre, the diodes act as limiters and protect the amplifier's input against overvoltages in the line (Valfre, Col. 3, lines 54-62). Nowhere in Valfre is it taught that the two diodes could or do function as a limiting amplifier.

For at least these reasons, applicant asserts that claim 1 is allowable over the prior art. Since dependent claims 4-13 depend from claim 1, it is also believed that these claims are allowable over the prior art.

Independent claim 23 recites a method of controlling a power amplifier having a predriver circuit including "sensing the input and output DC levels of the power amplifier," "comparing the sensed DC levels," "creating a feedback signal based on the difference between the sensed DC levels," and "adjusting the DC bias levels in the predriver so that the input and output DC levels of the power amplifier are maintained in a predetermined relationship."

Applicants argue that Valfre does not teach or suggest the method recited in claim 23. The Examiner argues that amplifier A of Valfre can be read as an RF power amplifier. It is not clear how Valfre teaches sensing and comparing the input and output DC levels of the power amplifier. Further, it is not clear how Valfre teaches creating a feedback signal based on the difference between the sensed DC levels. Still further, it is not clear how the DC bias levels in a predriver are adjusted.

For at least these reasons, applicant asserts that claim 23 is allowable over the prior art. Since dependent claims 24-26 depend from claim 23, it is also believed that these claims are allowable over the prior art.

Claims 14, and 16 have been rejected under § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ting et al., US Patent 5,723,994 (Ting).

Amended claim 14 is allowable claim 15 in independent form. Amended claim 14 is therefore believed to be allowable. Since dependent claims 16-22 depend from amended claim 14, it is also believed that these claims are allowable over the prior art.

New Claims

New claims 34-36 have been added.

New dependent claims 34-35 depend from claim 1, and are believed to be allowable over the prior art.

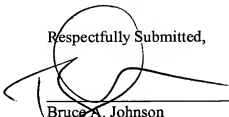
New independent claim 36 is similar to allowable claim 2, and is therefore believed to be allowable.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that all claims are patentable over the prior art. It is further more respectfully submitted that all other matters have been addressed and remedied and that the application is in form for allowance. Should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Bruce A. Johnson, Applicants' Attorney at 512-301-9900 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

10-19-05
Date

Respectfully Submitted,



Bruce A. Johnson
Reg. No. 37361
Attorney for Applicant(s)

Customer Number 30163
Bruce A. Johnson
Johnson & Associates
PO Box 90698
Austin, TX 78709-0698
Tel. 512-301-9900
Fax 512-301-9915